

Message Text

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ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 GSA-02 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 STR-07 EUR-12 EA-10 TRSE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8918

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN
SUBJ: COBALT

1. SPEAKING IN AN INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, NCHANGA CONSOLIDATED COPPER MINES GENERAL MANAGER FRANCIS KAUNDA SAID THAT ZAMBIA'S COBALT PRODUCTION WAS 1700 TONS "THIS YEAR" MAKING ZAMBIA THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST PRODUCER. HE ESTIMATED ZAMBIA'S COBALT PRODUCTION POTENTIAL AT BETWEEN 7,000 AND 10,000 TONS PER YEAR. IN ORDER TO REACH THAT GOAL ZAMBIA WOULD NEED NEW TECHNOLOGY AND "WE ARE NOW MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ACQUIRE IT." (EXTENSION OF RCM'S EXISTING COBALT FACILITY SHOULD ADD ANOTHER 2,000 TONS CAPACITY WITHIN A YEAR.)

2. KAUNDA SAID ZAMBIA EXPECTED TO EARN ALMOST \$47 MILLION FROM COBALT SALES THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF THE RECENT DRAMATIC PRICE INCREASE FOR COBALT. THE PRICE INCREASE IS A RESULT OF A WORLD WIDE SHORTAGE OF COBALT WHICH IS EXPECTED TO LAST UNTIL 1985 ACCORDING TO KAUNDA.

3. COMMENT: WHILE KAUNDA MENTIONED ONLY THE U.S., "EUROPE," UK, WEST GERMANY AND PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA AS BUYERS OF ZAMBIAN COBALT, EMBASSY REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT
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ZAMBIA SOLD COBALT TO USSR IN 1977 AND PERHAPS SMALL AMOUNT THIS YEAR AS WELL. END COMMENT.
BARCAS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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